

ENGAGING WITH ISLAM
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engagingwithislam.org

PART 1. STARTING A CONVERSATION

Our place on the historical time line. We learn about each other differently.

A. They said (in boast), "We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Apostle of God"; but they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ about this are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow, for of certainty they killed him not. (Qur'an 4:157)

B. They are unbelievers who say, "God is the Third of Three". No god is there but One God. ... The Messiah, son of Mary, was only a Messenger; Messengers before him passed away; his mother was just a woman; they both ate food. (Qur'an 5:73-75)

C. It is not fitting for the Merciful (Allah) to take to himself a son. There is none in the heavens and the earth who will not come to the Merciful as a slave. (Qur'an 19:92-93)

D. [Permitted to Muslim men in marriage] are the chaste women of the believers (Muslims) and the chaste women of those what have been given the Scripture before you (Christians and Jews). (Qur'an 5:5)

E. (Y)ou will certainly find the nearest in friendship to those who believe (to be) those who say: We are Christians ... (Qur'an 5:82)

F. Fight those who believe not in God and the Last Day and do not forbid what God and His Messenger (Muhammad) have forbidden - such men as practise not the religion of truth, being of those who have been given the Book (Christians and Jews) - until they pay the tribute (of surrender) out of hand and have been humbled. The Jews say, 'Ezra is the Son of God'; the Christians say, 'The Messiah is the Son of God.' That is the utterance of their mouths, conforming with the unbelievers before them. God assail them! How they are perverted! ... It is He who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the religion of truth, that He may uplift it above every religion. (Qur'an 9:29-33)

What about Islam in the Bible?

The Result

- Islam prepares Muslims for Christianity in a way that Christianity does not prepare Christians for Islam.
- Confident. They think they know Christianity. Hebrews 6:12
- A challenge to the church.
- An opportunity because Muslims are meant to learn about Christianity!

- They think you are asking about Islam. You think you are asking about Christianity. This opens a door.
- Do not need to know about Islam to speak to a Muslim.

Application

Ask: What does Islam teach about Christianity? What have you been taught about Christianity?

Let them speak. Do not rush. There is no need to correct them at this stage.

Can I show one thing about Christianity? Do you know which books are in the Bible?

PART 2. SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH A MUSLIM

What is the gospel?

Introducing the gospel. Acts 17:1-3, 23

They are prepared to reject the gospel so what does this mean for how we introduce the gospel.

Muslim belief 1. We believe all the prophets and know their message.

- But righteous is he who believes in Allah and the Last Day and the angels and the Scripture and the prophets. (Qur'an 2:177)
- Torah & Gospel (Qur'an 3:3, 5:68, 53:36) books of the prophets (2:136, 285, 3:84, 4:136), Psalms (4:163, 17:55, 21:105)

Muslim belief 2. The Bible is corrupt.

- Just saying "Bible" can start an argument.

What does this mean for how we introduce the gospel to Muslims? It means we have to introduce the gospel in such a way that it shows Muslims that they do not believe all the prophets or know their message. We need to make the Bible interesting and surprising to them.

- Muslims believe Muhammad not the prophets.
- What is the Qur'an?
- Muslims are not encouraged to read the prophets.
- What is the Bible? We believe all the prophets. We follow the Holy Spirit not one man, and he leads us to Jesus.

- We introduce the gospel by explaining what the Bible is first. We explain what the Bible is before we invite them to read it.

Application

1. Bible Study on the table of contents of the Bible.

- Show all the books of the prophets: Moses, David, Job, Jonah, etc. Christian read all the prophets.
- Explain how the Bible and Quran are different.
- Then compare Qur'an 7:54 to Genesis 1, and Qur'an 37:139-148 to the book of Jonah. Then show that:
 - The Bible has the original message of the prophets.
 - The Bible has the complete message of the prophets.
 - The Qur'an has some of the details.
 - If you want to understand the message of the prophets and what the Quran is referring to you should first learn the Bible.

2. Give *What is the Bible?* Leaflet

PART 3. SALVATION IN CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

How has God saved us?

The message of Islam for the world. *Sahih Muslim*: bk. 19, no. 4294

Salvation in Islam

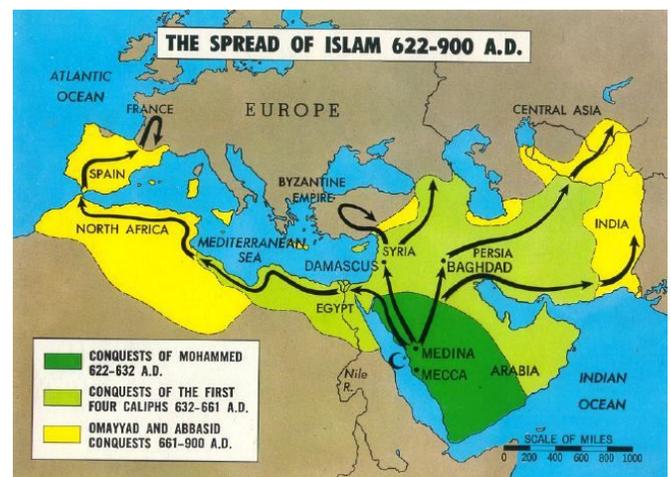
Path 1: Best Muslim - Straight to Paradise

Jihadist martyrs go straight to paradise.

If you are killed or die in God's way, pardon and mercy from God are better than what they collect. If you die or are killed, you will be gathered up to God. (Qur'an 3:157-158)

Narrated Jabir bin 'Abdullah: On the day of the battle of Uhud, a man came to the Prophet and said, "Can you tell me where I will be if I should get martyred?" The Prophet replied, "In Paradise." The man threw away some dates he was carrying in his hand, and fought till he was martyred. (*Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 5, bk. 59, no. 377)

The souls of the martyrs live in the bodies of green birds who have their nests in chandeliers hung from



the throne of the Almighty. They eat the fruits of Paradise from wherever they like and then nestle in these chandeliers. (*Sahih Muslim*: 1887; bk. 20, no. 4651)

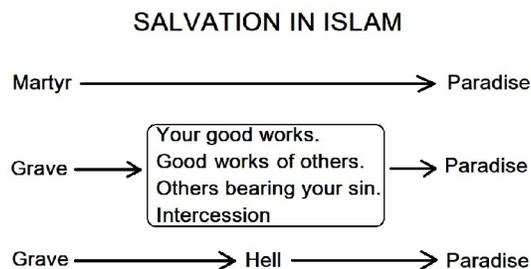
Path 2: Good Muslim - The Grave then Paradise

Most Muslims are not martyrs and so they take a different path. They earn Allah’s mercy through the religious rituals of Islam, the Five Pillars which are the confession of faith, fasting, pilgrimage, prayers, giving money to Islamic causes. When they die they go to the grave first and then hopefully to paradise later.

... the Messenger of Allah (Muhammad) said: “Indeed the grave is the first stage among the stages of the Hereafter. So if one is saved from it, then what comes after it is easier than it. And if one is not saved from it, then what comes after it is worse than it.” (*Jami` at-Tirmidhi*: 2308)

What is interesting is that a Muslim can do good deeds which will be credited to another Muslim who is in the grave.

Narrated Ibn Abbas: A man came to the Prophet and said, “O Allah’s Apostle! My mother died and she ought to have fasted one month (for she missed Ramadan). Shall I fast on her behalf?” The Prophet replied in the affirmative and said, “Allah’s debts have more right to be paid.” ... (*Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 3, bk. 31, no. 174)



The next hadith is Muhammad speaking at the funeral of a Muslim.

... Allah's Apostle said, 'As for him, by Allah, death has come to him. By Allah, I wish him all good (from Allah). By Allah, in spite of the fact that I am Allah's Apostle, I do not know what Allah will do to me.', Um Al-'Ala added, "By Allah, I will never attest the righteousness of anybody after that." (*Sahih al-Bukhari*: vol. 9, bk. 87, no. 131)

Path 3: Bad Muslim - The Grave then Hell then Paradise

The final way is to go to hell and then paradise.

Whoever said "None has the right to be worshipped but Allah" and has in his heart good (faith) equal to the weight of a barley grain will be taken out of Hell. ... (*Sahih al-Bukhari*, vol. 1, bk. 2, no. 42)

Application

1. Which path are you on?
2. Yes, people do try to make many paths to God, but when God comes to saves us there is only one path and that is Jesus dying for our sins. This is the path I am on. You can be on this path too.